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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/438,185      | 11/11/1999  | RICHARD S STEPHENS   | 018941-00041        | 8996             |

20350 7590 05/09/2002

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EXAMINER

DUFFY, PATRICIA ANN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1645

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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DEA/FCE-1994

|               |             |                       |                     |
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| 09/438,185    |             |                       |                     |
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|               |             |                       |                     |

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| EXAMINER |              |
|          |              |
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|          | 12           |

DATE MAILED:

Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application  
Commissioner of Patents

1. The reply filed on March 5, 2002 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because: it does not address any of the outstanding issues of record except the legibility of the specification and sequence problems. Since the period for reply set forth in the prior Office action has expired, this application will become abandoned unless applicant corrects the deficiency and obtains an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

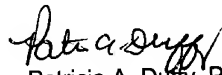
The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

2. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this general application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Papers relating to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 1600, Group 1640 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). Should applicant wish to FAX a response, the current FAX number for Group 1600 is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia A. Duffy, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 305-7555. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 AM to 3:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynette Smith, can be reached at (703) 308-3909.

Patricia A. Duffy, Ph.D.  
May 7, 2002

  
Patricia A. Duffy, Ph.D.  
Primary Examiner  
Group 1600